

Set a date in Vietnam Stick to it. Get out.

by Clark Clifford

Accordingly, what we need is a program that will Vietnamize the peace rather than prolong the war. In July 1969, in an article in the magazine *Foreign Affairs*, I recommended the definite, scheduled withdrawal of our ground combat forces from Vietnam by the end of 1970. I now propose to go further, and set a final date for our complete disengagement. Such final date might even be advanced if certain agreements are reached. The following is my specific three-point plan:

1. Announce publicly that all U.S. forces are to be removed from any combat role anywhere in Southeast Asia no later than Dec. 31, 1970, and that all U.S. military personnel will be out of Indochina by the end of 1971, at the latest, provided only that arrangements have been made for the release of all U.S. prisoners of war.

2. Move promptly to end B-52 attacks, all search-and-destroy missions, and all other offensive operations, except as necessary to protect the security of U.S. forces, as disengagement proceeds.

3. Inform Hanoi and Saigon that we are prepared to negotiate an even more rapid withdrawal if the safety of our forces is assured by a cease-fire or other arrangements in South Vietnam, and if there is an understanding regarding the cessation of military pressures in Laos and Cambodia.